





4:00 p.m. To clean them, two of us would sit on each side of a revolving emery belt and hold the egg against the belt which would take off the dirt. This was a contraption that my father fixed that was run by an electric motor. The very dirty eggs were washed, and the cracked eggs were used by my mother. (I remember that we had lots of angel food and sponge cakes.) The eggs were packed in the crates as they were cleaned. This was done after each gathering, and the process took from half an hour to an hour in time.

Three times a week the eggs were delivered to the Poultry Producers plant in Cotati. My sister remembers my father taking the eggs to the railway station. That was before my time. My father took the eggs on a wagon drawn by a horse. I remember riding to school in Cotati on the wagon. He would bring home empty crates for the eggs, and sacks of mash and grain for the chickens. I thought that we had gone up in the world when he discontinued using the horse and wagon, and used a model A sedan which he built into a truck to do his delivery.

When my father would clean out the litter in the hen house, a monthly process, it would take him a day of hard work, not only for him, but for my mother. He cleaned out under the roosts every Friday. He would use a wheelbarrow, and rake the droppings into it, or shovel the litter into it, and take it out to the horse and wagon, which he continued to use for that purpose.

My father mixed his own mash out of a variety of ground-up grains. When I was a very little girl, I used to like to climb up on a pile of this mixed-up mash and kick it around with my bare feet, as it felt so good. When I recall this, I wonder why my father didn't protest. Father fed the chickens this mash, milo, or grain, and shells which were kept in a box for the chickens to eat at any time. He grew kale, and we had to pick the leaves for them to eat.

Other big jobs which had to be done were culling out the non-producers and selling them, vaccinating the pullets, putting ointment on the baby chicks that were pecking each other, and all of this involved catching them and putting them into coops. I think that we three children weren't too unhappy when we escaped any of these jobs by being in school, or having easier chores to do.

One of the traumatic events which happened in our life on the ranch occurred when the new Gravenstein Highway went through our place. The highway was planned to go right where our hen houses, brooder house and granary were. All of these had to be moved before construction could begin. I remember that our baby chicks were very young when this move was to take place, which worried my father as he didn't see how they could be kept warm during the move. They survived, we survived, my father included, and he continued to raise chickens until he retired late in 1948.



The new highway divided our ranch so that we had a hillside covered with eucalyptus and some cork oak that my father had planted for the wood. This was on one side of the highway, and the chicken ranch was on the lower side. No longer could I get into my red wagon and ride down the hill toward the house, but I did have the grove of trees as a playground which I enjoyed.

It seems to me, that this chicken ranch which we called home, was a wonderful place, and when we would come home from being away from it, it was nice to know that things hadn't changed, and there were still eggs to gather and pack.



PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM  
Oral History Program  
Family History Questionnaire

Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Deceased? Date
<u>Parents*</u> ALTHEA HARMER FOCHT	05-04-85	LYNU KAN	04-06-1885
SAMUEL S. FOCHT	3-28-1872	MISS.	11(?) 1961
	3-21-13		
<u>Brothers &amp; Sisters</u> MARY LELLA FOCHT ALBERTSON		SEBASTOPOL CA	2-07-96
ALFRED PAUL FOCHT	12-21-15	SEBASTOPOL CA	
<u>Grand-parents*</u> RACHEL HARMER	?	?	?
MARY FOCHT	?	?	?
<u>Spouse</u> NORBERT HAROLD WOHLTZ	11-22-16	LOS MOLINOS CA	11-20-91
<u>Children</u> DAVID ALAN WOHLTZ	08-26-48	CHICO CA	
DEBORAH JEAN W. BOLAS	04-23-50	" "	
KENNETH HAROLD WOHLTZ	01-19-52	" "	
ELLEN LOUISE PATERA	06-11-53	CORNING "	
<u>Grandchildren</u> ANTHONY ALAN WOHLTZ	01-22-79	CHICO	
CATHERINE RENEE "	03-16-81	CHICO	
ADAM HAINS "	03-16-81	CHICO	
SARAH ALLISON "	03-04-87	CHICO	
ELLEN GLAIRE BOLAS	07-31-84	ST LOUIS, MO	
JOHN DAVID BOLAS	11-01-87	ST LOUIS, MO	
LOREN KENNETH WOHLTZ	02-18-85	LOS ALAMOS NM	
SONYA GRAYSON WOHLTZ	10-16-86	" " "	
ELIZABETH ELLEN PATERA	12-24-81	TEMPE AZ	
MARGARET JEAN PATERA	05-26-85	NAPERVILLE IL	
ALLISON MARIE PATERA	04-01-88	" "	
SAMUEL SMYTH PATERA	06-17-91	SANTA FE N.M.	

\*Please include maiden name of mother and grandmothers.

THANK YOU!



PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM  
Oral History Program  
Narrator Personal Information Questionnaire

Name WOHLETZ MARTHA DEBORAH FOCHT  
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address 11801 PAREY AVE  
RED BLUFF CA 96080

Marital status: Married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed X

Birthdate 04-22-21 Birthplace COTATI, CA

Length of residence in Petaluma (or Sonoma County) 23 YEARS

Education: Elementary school COTATI ELEMENTARY

Secondary school PETALUMA HIGH SCHOOL Grad 1938

College U.C. BERKELEY Grad 42

Other CHICO STATE SAN FRANCISCO STATE

Occupation(s) or former occupations(s) TEACHER SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

Travels HAWAII, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ENGLAND, ALASKA  
FRANCE, GERMANY, AUSTRIA, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC

Organizations, clubs FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Other special interests CHURCH, VOLUNTEERING AT THE LIBRARY

AQUA AEROBICS, TRAVELING, READING, LISTENING TO

CLASSICAL AND CHORAL MUSIC

Additional comments \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU!



PETALUMA HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
Oral History Program

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PLACE RED BLUFF, CA

DATE Dec. 16, 1997

Martha F. Wohletz  
(Interviewee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(for the Petaluma Historical Museum)



PETALUMA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

1000 J. STREET, PETALUMA, CALIF. 94952

TEL. 442-1111 FAX 442-1112

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